GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1686
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Utilization of MPLAD Funds
Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Members of Parliament (MPs) who have utilized less than half of their MPLAD funds;

(b) the reasons for the sub-optimal utilization of MPLAD funds;

(c) the details of the sectors and projects in which most of the funds were utilized;

(d) whether the Government has received recommendations for relaxing norms for utilization of MPLAD funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (Dr.) V.K. SINGH (Retd.)]

(a): Under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), honourable Members of Parliament (MPs) recommend works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets. Implementation of works in the field is undertaken by the District Authorities. MP-wise release and utilisation details as furnished by the District Authorities are available on the official website of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation (www.mospi.gov.in). These figures have to be used with caution as there is a disparity in various district authorities in rendering Utilization Certificates (UC). The funds are not considered utilized till receipt of UC from district authorities. Thus exact picture of utilization is not available.

(b): The funds under the MPLADS are non-lapsable both at the end of the Union Government and at the end of the District Authority i.e. the unspent balances of a particular year are utilized in the subsequent year (s).

Time-lines for (i) sanction of eligible works, (ii) rejection of ineligible works and (iii) completion of sanctioned works are prescribed in the Guidelines on MPLADS.

Reasons for delay in utilization of MPLADS funds are broadly due to delay in (i) follow up of recommendations by honourable MPs, (ii) sanction by District Authorities and (iii) implementation by Implementing Agencies. The specific reasons vary from case to case.

(c): The implementation of works in the field is undertaken by the District Authorities. Durable assets in areas such as drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. have been created under the scheme. Individual project-wise details are not maintained centrally and are available only with district authorities.

(d) & (e): The Rajya Sabha Committee on MPLADS in its meeting held on 11.02.2016 made a recommendation to request Ministry of Finance to relax the General Financial Rules (GFRs) to the extent possible in order that release of MPLADS funds is not delayed because of non-submission of Utilization Certificates by Nodal District Authorities. The matter has been referred to Ministry of Finance.

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